



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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TENNESSEE WHEAT YIELD FORECAST AT RECORD 58 BUSHEL PER ACRE

NASHVILLE, June 9, 2006 - Tennessee's 2006 winter wheat production is forecast at 11.0 million bushels, up 31 percent from 2005, according to a recent survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office. The State's average yield is forecast at 58 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from a year earlier and, if realized, a new state record. Tennessee farmers seeded 300,000 acres last fall, 60,000 more than the previous year and the first acreage increase since 2000. Wheat producers expect to harvest 190,000 acres for grain, 40,000 more than a year ago. The remaining 110,000 acres were used as a cover crop or will be harvested for hay or silage.

As of June 4, ninety-five percent of the wheat crop had turned color and nearly a third of the acreage was ripe, slightly ahead of the normal pace. The crop was rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition with little to no insect or disease pressure reported. Harvest is expected to begin on schedule this week.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 16 PERCENT

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.26 billion bushels, down 4 percent from the May 1 forecast and 16 percent below 2005. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 40.5 bushels per acre, down 1.9 bushels from last month and 3.9 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 31.2 million acres, unchanged from May 1. Progress was significantly ahead of normal during the first part of the month due primarily to above average temperatures, but was almost even with the 5-year average by the end of the month. Harvest was underway in the southern-most portions of the growing area.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., June 1, 2006 with Comparisons¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	160	300	52.0	55.0	8,320	16,500
Georgia	140	130	52.0	47.0	7,280	6,110
Kentucky	300	310	68.0	68.0	20,400	21,080
Mississippi	65	70	50.0	55.0	3,250	3,850
Missouri	540	870	54.0	53.0	29,160	46,110
North Carolina	435	440	57.0	48.0	24,795	21,120
TENNESSEE	150	190	56.0	58.0	8,400	11,020
Virginia	160	170	63.0	56.0	10,080	9,520
United States	33,794	31,177	44.4	40.5	1,499,129	1,263,766

¹ 2006 forecast, 2005 final.

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